



Reply To Examiner's Remarks

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-20, 23-25, 27-30, 33-35 and 37-38, as amended, are pending for consideration. Claims 7, 16, 26 and 36 are canceled.

The Examiner rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, noting that claim 14 depends upon previously canceled claim 11. Claim 14 is amended here to depend upon claim 10.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-20, 23-25, 27-30, 33-35 and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) as anticipated and/or obvious in view of the disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 5,400,173, issued to Komine, and U.S. Patent No. 5,953,154, issued to Akagawa et al.

The Examiner indicates that claims 7, 16, 26 and 36 would be allowable if written in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim (1, 10, 19 and 29, respectively) and of any intervening claims. Claim 7 is canceled, and independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 7. Claim 16 is canceled, and independent claim 10 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 16. Claim 26 is canceled, and independent claim 19 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 26. Claim 36 is canceled, and independent claim 29 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 26.

Claims 4-6 and 8-9 are amended, as appropriate, to depend upon claim 1 and are believed to be allowable if claim 1, as amended, is allowable. Claims 13-15 and 17-18 are amended, as appropriate, to depend upon claim 10 and are believed to be allowable if claim 10, as amended, is allowable. Claims 20, 23-25 and 27-28 are amended, as appropriate, to depend upon claim 19 and are believed to be allowable if claim 19, as amended, is allowable. Claims 30, 33-35 and 37-38 are amended, as appropriate, to depend upon claim 29 and are believed to be allowable if claim 29, as amended, is allowable.

The Applicant believes that claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-20, 23-25, 27-30, 33-35 and 37-38, as amended, are allowable and requests that the Examiner pass the application, including claims 1, 4-6, 8-10, 13-15, 17-20, 23-25, 27-30, 33-35 and 37-38, to issue as a U.S. Patent.

Respectfully Submitted,

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